

Where the Red Fern Grows
Chapters VIII, IX, X

BEFORE READING

Part 1: Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use context clues, combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided. (1 point each)

1. He just lays there in the sunshine, all stretched out and limber as a rag.

2. I heard the baying of a hound.

3. I was expecting one of them to bawl, but when it came it startled me.

4. Like a king in its domain, it towered far above the smaller trees.

5. "If that tree takes a notion to fall, it'll mash you flatter than a tadpole's tail."

6. He showed his sympathy by nuzzling me with his head.

7. In a sober voice, he said, "I don't know, Billy."

Part 2: Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. (1 point each)

_____ 1. limber

A. to cry or wail loudly

_____ 2. baying

B. territory over which rule or control is exercised

_____ 3. bawl

C. serious, grave, or solemn

_____ 4. domain

D. uttering a deep, prolonged bark

_____ 5. notion

E. bending or flexing readily; pliable

_____ 6. nuzzling

F. rubbing or pushing against gently with the nose

_____ 7. sober

G. an idea or conception

DURING READING: As you read chapter 8-9, complete the graphic organizer using details from the text.

Chapters 8-10 – Provide **text-based details** to explain each character, event, or setting:

the big tree (1 pt.)	1. biggest sycamore tree in the forest 2.
scarecrow (2 pts.)	1. 2.
two little beds (2 pts.)	1. 2. coons stayed to watch the tree
gust of wind (2 pts.)	1. wind finally blew the tree down 2. 3.
raccoon cap (1 pt.)	1. 2. Billy went “coon crazy” & always wanted to hunt
a little boot of leather (1 pt.)	1. Little Ann cut the pad of her foot 2.
muskrat den (1 pt.)	1. Old Dan got stuck in there and got dirty 2.

AFTER READING

Part 1: STANDOUT QUOTATION: “If a man’s word isn’t any good, he’s no good himself.” (pg.81)

Who said it? _____

What was going on at the time? _____

What do these words show about the speaker? _____

Part 2: Read each question. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided. HINT: Read over questions before reading. (1 point each)

_____ 1. How did Billy's parents feel about his hunting?

- A.** They both approved wholeheartedly. They said it was the way of the mountain folk and they were proud of him for carrying on the tradition.
- B.** His mother strongly disapproved and wanted him to stop. His father told his mother that he was the head of the family and would make the decision. He said it was fine.
- C.** His parents both disapproved but his grandfather convinced them to let him try it. He said Billy would get bored after a week or so and stop hunting.
- D.** His mother was worried but felt she could not stop him because of all he had done to get the dogs. His father thought it was fine because he was getting to be a man.

_____ 2. How old was Billy when he went coon hunting for the first time?

- A.** He was ten.
- B.** He was thirteen.
- C.** He was sixteen.
- D.** He was twelve.

_____ 3. True or False: Billy realized his father was talking to him like he was a man.

- A.** True
- B.** False

_____ 4. What feeling did Billy get on his first night of hunting, when Old Dan bawled the first time? What did he do after he also heard Little Ann's bawl?

- A.** He felt like a knot had been tied in his throat. Then he cried and whooped as the tears ran down his face.
- B.** He was terrified to be out in the woods alone at night. He realized he had made a big mistake.
- C.** He didn't realize what the sounds meant. He hit the dogs and told them to be quiet and not scare away the coons.
- D.** He felt like he had finally become a man, and no one could tell him what to do.

_____ 5. Where did the hounds tree their first coon?

- A.** They treed it in the largest sycamore on the bottoms.
- B.** The treed it in his mother's favorite shade tree near the house.
- C.** They treed it in an oak tree across the river where he couldn't go to get it.
- D.** They treed it on another farmer's property and he would not let them on to get it.

_____ 6. What did Billy decide to do about the treed coon?

- A.** He was satisfied that they treed the coon. He said he didn't need to kill it to prove they were competent hunters.
- B.** He said he would help his dogs get the coon out of the tree no matter what it took.
- C.** He set traps around the bottom of the tree so the coon would get caught if it tried to climb down.
- D.** He decided to let his father and grandfather catch the coon since they had more experience than he did.

_____ 7. What did the members of Billy's family think about his decision?

- A.** His parents did not like his decision but his grandfather did.
- B.** None of the family members thought he was making a wise choice.
- C.** His father thought he was old enough to make his own decision. His mother and grandfather thought he should do what they wanted.
- D.** His father and grandfather supported him. His mother finally agreed with him.

_____ 8. How did Billy's grandfather keep the coon in the tree while Billy went home to rest?

- A. He stayed at the bottom of the tree and fired his shotgun in the air every fifteen minutes.
- B. He built a fire at the base of the tree.
- C. He made a scarecrow on the ground where the coon could see it.
- D. He had the little girls march around the tree and bang on pots and pans.

_____ 9. Billy's grandfather said something was driving the price of coon skins up. What was it?

- A. People were watching the Daniel Boone series on television and wanted to own coon skin caps like Daniel Boone's.
- B. The government was getting ready to regulate the number of coons that could be killed, so people were buying as much as they could before the regulations went into effect.
- C. There was coon skin coat fad in New England, and coon skins were in high demand.
- D. The coons in a few neighboring states had a disease that made their skins unusable. The skins from Oklahoma were in the best around at the time.

_____10. What was the outcome of Billy's efforts?

- A. He gave up and left the tree alone.
- B. He asked his father and grandfather to help him and they all chopped the tree down.
- C. He succeeded in chopping through the entire tree in five days.
- D. He chopped through most of the tree, and then the wind blew it over.

Part 3: Open-Ended Response

Answer the following question based using the Better Answer Formula. Be sure to include a topic sentence that answers the question, 2 answers with details from the novel to support your answers, and a concluding sentence (6 sentences).

*How would you describe the relationship between Old Dan and Little Ann?

Grading Rubric

Response answers the question	___/1
Topic sentence includes words from the question & gist	___/1
Two reasons for your answer	___/2
Two specific details from the story to support your answer	___/2
Conclusion	___/1
Complete sentences	___1
Punctuation/capitalization	___/2
Total score	___/10

